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12/19/00  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:** Brown et al.  
**Application No.:** Not assigned yet  
**Filed:** Concurrently herewith  
**For:** IMPROVED LONGITUDINALLY FLEXIBLE  
EXPANDABLE STENT  
**Examiner:** Not assigned yet  
**Group Art Unit:** Not assigned yet

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-9397

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before calculating the filing fee and beginning examination of this application,  
please amend the application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, please delete lines 3-4 and replace them with the following text:

--This application is a continuation of US Application No. 09/122,431 filed on  
July 24, 1998 which is a continuation of US Application No. 08/511,076, filed August 3, 1995  
which is a continuation-in-part of US Application No. 08/396,569, filed March 1, 1995, the  
contents of all of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.--

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add new claims 16-35 as follows:

--16.(New) A stent in a non-expanded state, comprising:

a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a  
second expansion strut and a joining strut of the first expansion strut pair that couples the first  
and second expansion struts at a distal end of the first expansion strut pair, a plurality of the first  
expansion strut pair forming a first expansion column;